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UK's decision was wise

We agree with University of Kentucky President Otis Singletary's decision to let two Iranian students and an English professor return to UK after their release from jail.

We agree for one reason — the principle of double jeopardy. They already have been convicted and sentenced in state court; the state university should not place them in jeopardy a second time.

The Singletary decision, however, in no way endorses the actions of the three, who were among 11 persons arrested April 12 for disrupting a public assembly during a speech by CIA Director Stansfield Turner.

For six months, the arrested demonstrators have tried to sell the public on the notions that, one, they are "political prisoners;" two, they were discriminated against, and three, the "real issues" in the case are

freedom of speech and CIA involvement in Iran.

We don't buy any of it. Had they not disrupted that meeting in April, they would not have been arrested — regardless of their nationality, their views about the shah and their opinions of the CIA. And if anybody's freedom of speech was abridged, it was Stansfield Turner's.

The meeting was disrupted. They were arrested. They were tried. They were convicted by a jury. All the political rhetoric between here and the Mideast can't whitewash those facts.

The case is under appeal. Meantime, the defendants are entitled to no less protection under the law than is guaranteed others in this country — citizens and non-citizens alike.

But their zeal for overthrowing the shah hardly entitles them to more.